

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00816 231404Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 OCL-00 SY-05 OPR-02

A-01 SCCT-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 L-03

H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /073 W

----- 080454

R 231200Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3589

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

CNO WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

OSD ISA WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USCINCEUR VAIHIVYEN

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0816

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: SECURITY OF KAGNEW TRACT BRAVO

REF: A. CINCUSNAVEUR 201228Z SEP 75 B. NAVCOMMUNIT 231011Z SEP 75

1. POSSIBILITY OF LT. HILL BEING DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA (PNG) HAS BEEN AVERTED AND RELATIONS WITH COL. TELAHUN, 2ND DIV CHIEF OF STAFF, HAVE IMPROVED MARKEDLY. EQUALLY ANY PRESSURE FROM BG GETACHEW OR BG WORKU FOR LT. HILL'S REMOVAL HAS DISSIPATED. CONGEN IS CONFIDENT THAT LT. HILL CAN CONTINUE FUNCTION AS OIC NAVCOMMUNIT UNIMPAIRED BY EPMGS

HOSTILITY, AND THAT RECOURSE TO REPLACEMENT BY MORE SENIOR OFFICER WILL NOT BE NECESSARY DESPITE KNOWN QUALIFICATIONS OF CDR. EMMERSON.

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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00816 231404Z

2. CONGEN IS DISAPPOINTED AT EVIDENT FAILURE TO COMPREHEND PROBLEMS ENTAILED IN PROVIDING SECURITY FOR TRACT BRAVO. EPMG AUTHORITIES ALONE DECIDE WHAT FORCES THEY WILL PROVIDE ON REQUEST FOR PROTECTION OF TRACT BRAVO IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IN ASMARA AND IN ERITREAN REGION. ALL PARTIES ON SCENE CONCUR IN NEED FOR INCREASED SECURITY AT BRAVO IN VIEW OF SPECIFIC FRONT (ELF/PLF) THREATS AGAINST KAGNEW. IN VIEW OF HEIGHTENED THREAT, SIZE AND DISPOSITION OF INCREASED DEFENSE FORCE AT BRAVO IS BEST LEFT YB AUTHORITIES ON SCENE. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT RELIABILITY AND COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMANDO POLICE VERSUS THAT OF 2ND DIV TROOPS IS INDISTINGUISHABLE AND CONTROL OF ANY EPMG FORCE TASKED WITH DEFENSE OF BRAVO WILL CONSTITUTE PROBLEM FOR OIC NAVCOMMUNIT. IN ANY EVENT, ALL EPMG SECURITY FORCES ARE UNDER COMMAND OF BG WORKU AND HIS CHIEF OF STAFF, COL. TELAHUN. IF DEFENSE OF BRAVO IS TO BE STRENGTHENED, USG WILL BE OBLIGED TO ACCEPT WHATEVER FORCE EPMG OFFERS AND MAKE BEST EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN CONTROL AT SITE.

3. AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN OIC NAVCOMMUNIT AND COL. TELAHUN ON INCREASED SECURITY AT TRACT BRAVO (REF B) SHOULD OBVIATE PROBLEMS OF CONTROL OF EPMG FORCES AT PRESENT. IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT DESPITE THIS AGREEMENT, CONTROL PROBLEMS CAN AGAIN ARISE AT ANY TIME.
WAUCHOPE

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